

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

By the current Amendment, claims 1-4 and 8-12 have been cancelled, claim 5 has been amended and claims 14-18 have been added.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Oishi et al. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oishi et al. in view of Okumura et al. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oishi et al. in view of JP '241. And, claim 13 was allowed.

The basis for allowing claim 13 was stated to be that the limitation of

aligning a reference position of said polished and cleaned
semiconductor wafer with a predetermined direction,

is not anticipated nor made obvious by the prior art of record.

Accordingly, without acquiescing to the appropriateness of the prior art rejections issued by the Examiner, and solely to further advance prosecution of this application, claim 5 has been amended so as to include the language of claim 13 upon which the Examiner based allowability thereof. Specifically, claim 5 has been amended to recite a polishing apparatus that comprises *inter alia*

**a positioning mechanism for aligning a reference position
of the polished and cleaned semiconductor wafer with a
predetermined direction.**

Similarly, new independent claims 15 and 16 also generally recite the language of claim 13 that was found by the Examiner to constitute allowable subject matter. In this regard, each of claims 15 and 16 recite a processing apparatus that comprises *inter alia*

**a positioning mechanism for aligning a reference position
of the processed semiconductor wafer with a
predetermined direction.**

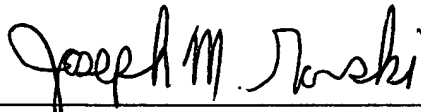
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that each of independent claims 5, 15 and 16 are allowable over the references relied upon by the Examiner, whereby claims 5-7 and 14-18 are allowable.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance with the allowed claims being 5-7 and 13-18, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 4, 2004